

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28 (canceled)

29 (new) A semiconductor memory device comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor memory cards arranged in a rectangular shape, each semiconductor memory card having first edge portions disposed along the lengths of two parallel edges of said semiconductor memory card, the first edge portions being thinner than a central portion of said semiconductor memory card;

a housing for said plurality of semiconductor memory cards, said housing having:

a substantially rectangular shape so as to have a smaller axis and a larger axis, and

second edge portions disposed along the lengths of two parallel edges of said housing, said second edge portions being thinner than a central portion of said housing, two of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards being disposed flat and adjacent to each other along the smaller axis of said housing, and so that one of said first edge portions of each of said two semiconductor memory cards lies in a respective one of said second edge portions of said housing;

a connecting section in said housing for connecting to a host device; and

a controller in said housing for controlling transmission and reception of a signal between said connecting section and said plurality of semiconductor memory cards.

30 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 29, further comprising:

a switch provided in said housing and operable from outside of said housing, said switch having a state which indicates whether write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards are allowed; and

a monitor for detecting said state of said switch;

wherein a write operation to said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is prohibited when said monitor detects that said switch indicates that write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards is not allowed.

31 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 29,

wherein a surface of each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is recessed to form each of said first end portions, so that each of said first end portions has a step-like shape, and each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is provided with a terminal section on said surface,

wherein said housing includes a circuit substrate having a first surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface,

wherein said plurality of semiconductor memory cards are disposed on said first surface of said circuit substrate with said terminal sections facing away from said circuit substrate, and

wherein said controller is disposed on said second surface of said circuit substrate.

32 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 29,

wherein said housing has a size conforming to Type II of the PC Card Standards by the PCMCIA, in which a nominal width of said housing is 54.0 mm, a nominal length of said housing is 85.6 mm, and a nominal thickness of a thickest part of said housing is 5.0 mm, and

wherein each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards has a size conforming to the SD Memory Card® Standards by the SD Association, in which a nominal width of each semiconductor memory card is 24.0 mm, a nominal length of each semiconductor memory card is 32.0 mm, and a nominal thickness of a thickest part of each semiconductor memory card is 2.1 mm.

33 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

a switch provided in said housing and operable from outside of said housing, said switch having a state which indicates whether write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards are allowed; and

a monitor for detecting said state of said switch;

wherein a write operation to said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is prohibited when said monitor detects that said switch indicates that write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards is not allowed.

34 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 32, wherein said housing includes a restricting mechanism for restricting removal of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards from said housing.

35 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 34, further comprising:
a switch provided in said housing and operable from outside of said housing, said switch having a state which indicates whether write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards are allowed; and
a monitor for detecting said state of said switch;
wherein a write operation to said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is prohibited when said monitor detects that said switch indicates that write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards is not allowed.

36 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 32,
wherein a surface of each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is recessed to form each of said first end portions, so that each of said first end portions has a step-like shape, and each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is provided with a terminal section on said surface,
wherein said housing includes a circuit substrate having a first surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface,
wherein said plurality of semiconductor memory cards are disposed on said first surface of said circuit substrate with said terminal sections facing away from said circuit substrate, and
wherein said controller is disposed on said second surface of said circuit substrate.

37 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 32,
wherein said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is constituted by four semiconductor memory cards, and

wherein another two semiconductor memory cards are disposed flat, adjacent to each other along the smaller axis of said housing, and adjacent to said two semiconductor memory cards along the larger axis of said housing.

38 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 37, further comprising:

a switch provided in said housing and operable from outside of said housing, said switch having a state which indicates whether write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards are allowed; and

a monitor for detecting said state of said switch;

wherein a write operation to said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is prohibited when said monitor detects that said switch indicates that write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards is not allowed.

39 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 37,

wherein a surface of each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is recessed to form each of said first end portions, so that each of said first end portions has a step-like shape, and each of said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is provided with a terminal section on said surface,

wherein said housing includes a circuit substrate having a first surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface,

wherein said plurality of semiconductor memory cards are disposed on said first surface of said circuit substrate with said terminal sections facing away from said circuit substrate, and

wherein said controller is disposed on said second surface of said circuit substrate.

40 (new) A semiconductor memory device as recited in claim 39, further comprising:

a switch provided in said housing and operable from outside of said housing, said switch having a state which indicates whether write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards are allowed; and

a monitor for detecting said state of said switch;

wherein a write operation to said plurality of semiconductor memory cards is prohibited when said monitor detects that said switch indicates that write operations to the plurality of semiconductor memory cards is not allowed.